IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows(support for this amendment is found in Appendix B):

CLAIMS

1. In a video on demand system for supplying video data to a subscriber receiver via a program delivery network, the improvement comprising:

    a. A data base storage system containing a video on demand program;

    b. A transaction server responsively coupled to said data base storage system and said subscriber receiver whereby said subscriber receiver requests a video on demand program from said transaction server and said transaction server spools said video on demand program from said data base storage; and

    c. A plurality of video servers responsively coupled to said transaction server and said program delivery network wherein a one of said plurality of video servers streams said spooled video on demand program to said subscriber receiver via said program delivery network.

2. The video on demand system of claim 1 wherein said transaction server further comprises a transaction gateway operating in a middleware environment and a video server frame and steam spooling program responsively coupled to said transaction gateway via said middleware environment.

3. The video on demand system of claim 2 further comprising a mainframe computer platform hosting said transaction server responsively coupled to said one of said plurality of video servers and said subscriber receiver.

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4, The video on demand system of claim 3 wherein said mainframe computer platform further

comprises a Unisys mainframe computer system.

5. The video on demand system of claim 4 wherein said transaction server spools said video on

5   demand program in the MPEG-2 format.

6. An apparatus comprising:

    a. A subscribing receiver capable of providing a service request;

    b. A data base storage system which stores a video program;

10   c. A transaction server responsively coupled to said subscribing receiver and said data

base storage system capable of receiving said service request, accessing said video program

corresponding to said service request from said data base storage system, and spooling said

video program in response thereto; and

    d. A plurality of video servers responsively coupled to said transaction server wherein

15   one of said plurality of video servers streams said spooled video program to said subscribing

receiver.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said transaction server further comprises a

subscriber account whereby said subscribing is charged for said service request.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said transaction server further comprises a

transaction gateway operating in a commercial middleware environment.

9. An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said spooled video program further comprises MPEG-2.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said transaction server further comprises a Unisys computer system.

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11. A video on demand system comprising:

    a. Means for storing a plurality of video programs;

    b. Means for generating a requested video on demand signal;

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    c. Means responsively coupled to said generating means and said storing means for identifying one of said plurality of video programs stored within said storing means corresponding to said requested video on demand signal;

    d. Means responsively coupled to said identifying means and said storing means for spooling said corresponding one of said video programs if said identifying means identifies ; and

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    e. Means responsively coupled to said spooling means and said receiving means for streaming said spooled requested video on demand signal to said receiving means.

12. A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said receiving means further comprises a subscriber box.

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13. A video on demand system according to claim 12 wherein said receiving means further comprises a transaction gateway.

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14. A video on demand system according to claim 13 wherein said receiving means further comprises means for processing subscriber transactions.

15. A video on demand system according to claim 14 wherein said receiving means further comprises a Unisys mainframe computer system.

16. A method of providing video on demand services comprising:

    a. Storing a plurality of video programs;

    b. Receiving a video on demand request from a subscriber at a transaction server;

    c. Determining a one of said plurality of video programs corresponding to said video on demand request;

    d. Spooling said one of said plurality of video programs corresponding to said video on demand request;

    e. Transferring said spooled video program from said transaction server to a video server; and

    f. Streaming said spooled video program from said video server to said subscriber.

17. A method according to claim 16 further comprising:

    a. Pausing said streaming in response to a pause signal from said subscriber.

18. A method according to claim 16 further comprising:

    a. Reversing said streaming in response to a reverse signal from said subscriber.

19. A method according to claim 16 further comprising:

    a. Fast forwarding said streaming in response to a fast forward from said subscriber.

20. A method according to claim 16 wherein said processing step further comprises:

    a. Performing subscriber accounting to enable billing said subscriber for said video on demand request.